Freedom of Information Act 2000
&
Environmental Information Regs. 2004 response.

Gun Wharf, Dock Rd,
Chatham,
ME4 4TR.
Email: freedom@medway.gov.uk

Our Ref: FOI002491
Your Ref: INF002411
Date: 20/09/2024
FOI Subject: Regeneration plans for Gillingham Town Centre

Internal Review outcome.

Dear Aubnoy,

Further to your request for internal review to your FOI dated 27 June 2024 with the above reference number, the council has completed your request, and our response is as follows.

Request:

> **As a concerned resident in Gillingham and for one who has seen the huge decline, I'm aware that there are new regeneration/redevelopment plans for Gillingham Town Centre. For the public's interest and for my own, I am wondering when are these plans going to be released to the general public and when can we expect a date?**

To the above request the Council provided the below response.

> *We are pleased to be working on some exciting plans to rejuvenate and regenerate Gillingham Town Centre.*
>
> *The National High Street Task Force have been working with Council officers and stakeholders over the last eighteen months to address the challenges facing Gillingham High Street. This process has begun to identify key areas of focus and actions for supporting the regeneration of the town centre.*
>
> *The recently announced MP for Gillingham and Rainham has established a Gillingham High Street Taskforce, senior council officers with partner agencies with key businesses to discuss the issues of the town centre and to work on actioning some of the key priorities for Gillingham High Street. One of the first actions will be to repaint all the High Street benches in the Town Centre. This will be commissioned this summer 2024.*
>
> *On Sunday 1st September A "Love Gillingham" event is being planned for 1st September 2024. This will be a free community event featuring a family fun day event from 11am until 4pm. There will be food and community stalls, workshops with entertainment and much more. This will be the official launch of the Love Gillingham new branding, an initiative to bring the local business and community together and engage in the regeneration journey.*
>
> *Work to regenerate Gillingham will continue to be supported by a co-creation programme enabling the Council and town centre stakeholders, community and businesses to work*

closely together over the next 9 months to co-design and develop a Town Centre Delivery Plan for Gillingham town centre. This will identify a clear vision and programme of deliverable, investible projects. The Council wishes to work in partnership, working with, empowering and facilitating Gillingham's residents, businesses and community groups to deliver the transformation of the town centre.

There is a huge amount of enthusiasm and support for Gillingham amongst the businesses and its community. The strong partnerships will ultimately build the capacity for making the changes in the Town. There will be a series of community engagement workshops this year and we would welcome your input into those from a Gillingham resident viewpoint.

Further information and discussions can be directed to the Town Centre Management team by emailing: tcm@medway.gov.uk

In your request for internal review, you quoted the Council misapplied section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act to your request. As you would see from the above response, the Council did not apply the section but rather provided detailed response.

As the complaint raised in your internal review request did not relate to the response provided by the Council, the Council shall be upholding our response.

This closes the internal review process, and I hope our response is to your satisfaction. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The ICO complaint procedure can be found here.

Your sincerely.

Freedom of Information Officer.